INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)
FY 2011 FINAL REPORT

Project Title: Palouse Prairie Restoration Adaptive Management

Station: Turnbull NWR

Contact Person: Mike Rule

Project Description: This project will continue and improve upon an adaptive management project funded under a large Volunteers and Weeds Grant received in 2008 to identify the best course of action to control invasive plant species and restore native plant communities within the prairies of the Channeled Scablands. Restoration and protection of native plant diversity on Refuge Palouse Prairie remnants is a goal stated in the Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Specifically the objectives of this project are:

1) Develop and complete a graduate level research project that includes replicated treatment strategies utilizing varying combinations of chemical, mechanical and biological control of invasive species and the restoration of native plant species characteristic of the Palouse Prairie Province through various cultural means.

2) Evaluate treatment strategies for their efficacy in achieving restoration objectives and provide recommendations for future restoration efforts in a final written report.

Invasive Species Targeted: Exotic annual grasses (cheat grass, Japanese brome, and ventanata) and forbs such as dalmatian toad flax, knapweed, and tumble mustard.

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: September 30, 2014

Project Results: Because funding was received late in the year no treatments have been applied. Chemicals, native seed, and a rodent –free seed storage bin were purchased, a contract with University of Idaho Laboratory for pre- and post-treatment soil analysis on study plots that will receive carbon augmentation treatments was completed, and a cooperative agreement(13562-B-J063) for $24,999.00 was developed and initiated with Eastern Washington University to fund a graduate student to design and conduct the adaptive management study and undergraduate interns to assist with set-up and data collection. Eastern Washington University did not have the time to select a graduate student for fall, but they were apply to advertise and select a graduate student who started in January. The budget for the agreement includes stipends for graduate and undergraduates through Spring of 2014. Project design I underway and field work will begin in mid-May of 2012.

Number of Acres Treated: No acres have yet to be treated

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: 0

Number of Acres Restored: 0

Total Grant Amount: $30,000.00

Breakdown of Expenditures:

Category	**Total $ Spent**	**% of Total Grant**
Equipment/Supplies	$890.65	3%
Chemical		
Biocontrol Agents		
Travel		
Student Stipends	$24,999.00	83%
Restoration Materials	$960.00	3.2%
Other: Soil Analysis	$2800.00	9.3%
TOTAL	$4650.65	99%